

Message Text

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CINCLANT

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4066

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: DPC MEETING JULY 31, 1975: AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES

REF: STATE 179558

HELSINKI PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

SUMMARY. US VIEWS EXPRESSED IN JULY 31 DPC MEETING ON AUTUMN FORGE
EXERCISE SERIES AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO CSCE CBM'S (REFTEL) ELICITED
(A) GENERAL SUPPORT FOR AUTUMN FORGE SERIES CONCEPT AND FOR ACTIVE
PRESS POLICY, AND (B) EXPRESSIONS ON PERSONAL BASIS OF CONCERN ABOUT
PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF SERIES. SACEUR WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE ILLUS-
TRATIVE NOTIFICATION OF AUTUMN FORGE SERIES BY AUGUST 6 AND NAC/DPC
WILL MEET AGAIN AUGUST 8 TO RESUME DISCUSSION. IN VIEW OF OPPOSITION
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THAT EMERGED TO NOTIFYING SERIES AND SUPPORT FOR NOTIFYING ONLY
REFORGER AND GROSSE ROCHADE, WE BELIEVE U.S. WILL NEED TO BE
READY TO COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN FULL SUPPORT FOR
IMPORTANT AUTUMN FORGE SERIES AND RELATED ACTIVE PRESS POLICY.

END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING SYG PANSA OPENED DPC DISCUSSION ON AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES AND RELATIONSHIP TO CSCE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES (CBM'S) B CALLING ON ACTING MILITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LT GEN COLLADAY (US) TO BRIEF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON AUTUMN FORGE. COLLADAY STRESSED THAT THE AUTUMN FORGE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A SINGLE MAJOR EXERCISE SINCE IT INCORPORATES UNDER A COMMON UMBRELLA PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED NATO, NATIONAL AND MULTINATIONAL EXERCISES TO DEMONSTRATE ACE SOLIDARITY AND ENHANCE MOMENTUM TOWARD GREATER STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY. HE ALSO SAID THAT SACEUR HAD CHANGED DESIGNATION FROM "EXERCISE AUTUMN FORGE" TO "AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES" TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING. (FULL TEXT OF COLLADAY'S STATEMENT BEING SENT SEPTTEL.) ASSISTANT SYG KASTL BRIEFLY DESCRIBED MAJOR PROVISIONS OF CBM'S, OUTLINING PARAMETERS FOR PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS IN EXCESS OF 25,000 MEN.

2. AMBASSADOR BRUCE, IN STATEMENT CIRCULATED IN DPC (SEPTTEL), EXPRESSED US POSITION BASED ON REFTTEL.

3. NETHERLANDS CHARGE BUWALDA WELCOMED US INITIATIVE AND SAID HE PERSONALLY SAW THREE ISSUES WHICH MUST BE SETTLED IN CONNECTION WITH AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES. FIRST, REGARDING PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY, HE SAW NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. SECOND, THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THE AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISES SHOULD BE NOTIFIED TO CSCE PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE CBM'S PROVISIONS NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED. THIRD, HE NOTED THAT THE CBM'S PROVIDE FOR VOLUNTARY NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS BELOW THE 25,000-MAN THRESHOLD. HOWEVER, HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR THE ALLIES TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE BY NOTIFYING SMALLER MANEUVERS, AND HE SUGGESTED DISCUSSION OF SUCH MANEUVERS IN THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES THAT MIGHT BE NOTIFIED.

4. CANADIAN CHARGE ROY SAID THAT, THOUGH HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON AUTUMN FORGE, HIS AUTHORITIES FAVOR STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF CBM'S. HE AGREED WITH BUWALDA THAT NOTIFICATION OF SMALLER
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MANEUVERS COULD DEMONSTRATE ALLIED GOOD WILL AND THUS ENCOURAGE RECIPROCITY BY THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES. REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S SUGGESTION THAT PANSA INFORM NON-DPC MEMBERS OF DISCUSSION IN DPC, ROY SUGGESTED THAT NEXT DISCUSSION AT PERMREP LEVEL TAKE PLACE IN NAC.

5. UK CHARGE LOGAN ALSO WELCOMED US INITIATIVE. NOTING THAT HIS COMMENTS, TOO, WERE PERSONAL, HE SUGGESTED THE ALLIES GIVE THEMSELVES TIME TO CONSIDER THE ISSUES AND PRECEDENTS INVOLVED IN NOTIFYING THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES AS A CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURE. A POSSIBLE DANGER, HE SAID, WAS THAT SOME COUNTRIES MIGHT REPLY TO SUCH NOTIFICATION BY ACCUSING THE ALLIES OF SEEKING A BLANKET COVER FOR ALL EXERCISES INVOLVED IN AUTUMN FORGE AND THUS ATTEMPTING

TO CIRCUMVENT THE CBM'S CRITERIA. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION, LOGAN CONTINUED, WAS WHETHER BY NOTIFYING AUTUMN FORGE THE ALLIES MIGHT CREATE AN "UNSATISFACTORY PATTERN" WHICH THE OTHER SIDE MIGHT TRY TO FOLLOW IF THE ALLIES SET UP TWO TYPES OF NOTIFICATION, I.E., A GENERAL NOTIFICATION FOR AUTUMN FORGE AND MORE DETAILED NOTIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL EXERCISES THAT MEET SPECIFIC CBM CRITERIA.

6. AMBASSADOR CATALANO (ITALY) NOTED THAT PUBLICITY FOR SUCH EXERCISES AS AUTUMN FORGE WAS AN IMPORTANT MATTER AND THAT LIKELY PUBLIC REACTIONS TO SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS IN VARIOUS ALLIED COUNTRIES NEEDED TO BE CONSIDERED.

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7. PANSА SAID THAT THERE MAY BE A PARADOX INVOLVED IN NOTIFICATION OF THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES IN THE CBM CONTEXT: ON THE ONE HAND, THE ALLIES WANT TO STRESS THE INNOVATIVE CHARACTER OF AUTUMN FORGE AS A MEANS OF EMPHASIZING ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY; ON THE OTHER HAND, SUCH AN APPROACH MIGHT WEAKEN THE ALLIED ASSERTION THAT AUTUMN FORGE IS NOT A SINGLE EXER-

CISE AND THUS DOES NOT NEED TO BE NOTIFIED IN ALL THE DETAIL REQUIRED FOR CSCE CBM'S.

8. BELGIAN CHARGE WILLOT PRESENTED CONSIDERATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE ADVANCED BY LOGAN, QUESTIONING WHETHER BY NOTIFYING AUTUMN FORGE ALLIES MIGHT NOT BE CREATING A PRECEDENT WHICH THEY MIGHT LATER REGRET. WILLOT ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE OF NOTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL MANEUVERS BELOW THE 25,000 THRESHOLD AND SUGGESTED THAT SOME OF THESE MANEUVERS, IF
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ANNOUNCED, COULD PROMPT CONCERN IN NEIGHBORING STATES. HE SUGGESTED AS A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE BETWEEN US AND UK POSITIONS THAT ALLIES SPECIFICALLY PRE-ANNOUNCE REFORGER AND GROSSE ROCHADE BUT INDICATE AT THE SAME TIME THAT THEY ARE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES.

9. AMBASSADOR KRAPF (FRG) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES SHARE US VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF ADDRESSING THE AUTUMN FORGE/CBM ISSUES. WHILE HE HAD NO COMMENTS ON US OR UK APPROACHES, HE NOTED HIS AUTHORITIES FAVOR PUBLICITY FOR MILITARY EXERCISES. KRAPF DISTRIBUTED PROPOSED TEXT FOR NOTIFICATION OF FRG EXERCISE GROSSE ROCHADE REQUESTED AT THE JULY 29 POLADS MEETING. FYI: GROSSE ROCHADE WAS INITIALLY PLANNED AS A GERMAN TRAINING EXERCISE. FRENCH PARTICIPATION WAS ARRANGED ON A BILATERAL BASIS PRIOR TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT OF THE AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES AS A NATO UMBRELLA TO EMBRACE MANY EXERCISES, INCLUDING GROSSE ROCHADE, AND WE ARE NOT AWARE WHETHER FRG HAS SOLICITED FRENCH VIEWS ON PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF GROSSE ROCHADE IN CBM CONTEXT WHICH WOULD LINK FRANCE IF ONLY BY INFERENCE, TO NATO EXERCISE. INFORMATION ON THIS ASPECT MAY EMERGE, HOWEVER, AS RESULT OF PANSAS CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH DELEGATION (SEE BELOW). TEXT OF FRG PROPOSED TEXT TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. END FYI.

10. TURKISH CHARGE ALP SAID HE WOULD PREFER HOLDING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THESE ISSUES IN THE DPC RATHER THAN NAC.

11. PANSAS RECALLED BRUCE'S SUGGESTION THAT SACEUR PROVIDE ADVICE ON THE POSSIBLE CONTENT OF NOTIFICATION OF THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES AND ASKED THE MC TO TRANSMIT THIS REQUEST TO SACEUR. COLLADAY, IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM PANSAS, SAID HE HOPED THAT MC DRAFT OF PRESS RELEASE ON THE AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES WOULD BE READY BEFORE AUGUST 8.

12. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, IT WAS DECIDED THAT POLADS AT THEIR AUGUST 5 MEETING WOULD FURTHER DISCUSS AUTUMN FORGE/CBM'S ISSUES IN PREPARATION FOR AUGUST 8 MEETING IN EITHER NAC OR DPC. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE FRENCH AND GREEK INTEREST IN CBM'S, PANSAS SAID HE WOULD MEET PRIVATELY WITH FRENCH AND GREEK PERMREPS TO INFORM THEM OF DPC DISCUSSION AND SOLICIT THEIR VIEWS ON ISSUES.
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13. COMMENT: WHILE WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT ALLIED REPS GENERALLY, IN LARGELY UNINSTRUCTED DISCUSSION, FOVAORED AUTUMN FORGE CONCEPT AND AN ACTIVE RELATED PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY, LITTLE SENTIMENT SUPPORTED US PROPOSAL TO NOTIFY AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES UNDER PROVISIONS FOR CBM'S. MOST SEEMED BEARISH, MOREOVER, AT LEAST ON PERSONAL BASIS, THAT NAC/DPC COULD REACH AGREEMENT ON ISSUE AND SUBSTANCE OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION FOR AUTUMN FORGE SERIES TO ALLOW NOTIFICATION UNDER CBM CRITERIA TO TAKE PLACE 21 DAYS BEFORE FIRST EXERCISE IN AUTUMN FORGE SERIES ON SEPT 6. MOREOVER, AS LOGAN EXPLICITLY PHRASED IT, OVERRIDING ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED IS WHETHER ALLIES WANT HASTILY TO SET PREDEEDENTS ON PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUTUMN FORGE THEY MAY LATER REGRET. GIVEN TENOR OF DISCUSSION, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS US INTEREST IN PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF AUTUMN FORGE SERIES, BUT AT SAME TIME SHOULD BE PREPARED TO FALL BACK IF STRONG MAJORITY OPPOSES. IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ALLIED SUPPORT FOR IMPORTANT AUTUMN FORGE CONCEPT, INCLUDING FRENCH PARTICIPATION THEREIN, AND EFFECTIVE PUBLICITY TREATMENT OF AUTUMN FORGE SERIES, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED, IN FACE OF STRONG INSTRUCTED OPPOSITION AT AUGUST 8 MEETING TO ADOPT WILLOT'S COMPROMISE SUGGESTION AND PRE-ANNOUNCE REFORGER AND GROSSE ROCHADE AS BEING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES. AFTER ISSUE OF ANNOUNCING AUTUMN FORGE SERIES IS RESOLVED, IT IS LIKELY THAT MAJORITY OF ALLIES ALSO WILL FAVOR VOLUNTARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER, SMALLER EXERCISES IN SERIES, AN APPROACH WE RECOMMEND WE ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE BY AUGUST 6, AND WE MEANWHILE WILL REPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN SEPARATE BUT RELATED POLAD DISCUSSION OF CBM NOTIFICATION ISSUES AND RESULTS OF PANSAS SOUNDINGS WITH FRENCH AND GREEK DELEGATIONS. STREATOR

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